

**ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE * AMERICAN RIVERS * DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
EARTHJUSTICE * ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION * FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS * NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST * NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL * THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY
PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY * U.S. PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**

March 16, 2004

Dear Budget Committee Member:

On behalf of our millions of members, we strongly urge you to support the Kind – Capps amendment to the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Resolution, which would restore \$2.2 billion for critical environmental programs.

Without it, worthwhile and important programs will suffer, including key agricultural conservation programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, and the landmark Conservation Trust Fund, which supports programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State Wildlife Grants, and Forest Legacy. The amendment also restores significant cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency's State Revolving Funds, which support sewage treatment and water purification, and helps to move these programs toward a more sufficient funding level.

While we recognize the need to address the budget deficit, we oppose using fiscal discipline as cover for making disproportionately deep cuts to programs that protect our environment and natural resources. The Kind – Capps amendment is essential to protect our country's clean air, clean water, parks, open space and wildlife, and the healthy families and communities they support.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Brian Moore
Legislative Director
Alaska Wilderness League

Mary Beth Beetham
Director of Legislative Affairs
Defenders of Wildlife

S. Elizabeth Birnbaum
Director of Government Affairs
American Rivers

Joan Mulhern
Senior Legislative Counsel
Earthjustice

Beth Lowell
Policy Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Sara Zdeb
Legislative Director
Friends of the Earth

Betsy Loyless
VP for Policy & Lobbying
League of Conservation Voters

Bob Perciasepe
Chief Operating Officer
National Audubon Society

Bill Frymoyer
Director, Public Policy
National Environmental Trust

Craig Obey
Vice President Government Affairs
National Parks Conservation Association

Wesley Warren
Deputy Director, Advocacy Center
Natural Resources Defense Council

Julia Hathaway
Legislative Director
The Ocean Conservancy

Kyle Kinner
Legislative Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Anna Aurilio
Legislative Director
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

Bonnie Galvin
Director, Appropriations and Budget
The Wilderness Society

Randall D. Snodgrass
Director, Government Relations
World Wildlife Fund